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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/50/630 and Corr.1)]

50/167. Traffic in women and girls

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the principles set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1/ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 2/ the International Covenants on Human Rights, 3/ the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 4/ the Convention on the Rights of the Child 5/ and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, 6/

Recalling that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, 7/ affirmed the human rights of women and the girl child as an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights,

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1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ Resolution 34/180, annex.

3/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

4/ Resolution 39/46, annex.

5/ Resolution 44/25, annex.

6/ Resolution 48/104.

7/ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

Welcoming the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development 8/ which, inter alia, called upon all Governments to prevent all international trafficking in migrants, especially for the purpose of prostitution, and for the adoption by Governments of both receiving countries and countries of origin of effective sanctions against those who organize undocumented migration, exploit undocumented migrants or engage in trafficking in undocumented migrants, especially those who engage in any form of international traffic of women and children,

Recalling the recognition by the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, 9/ of the danger to society of the trafficking in women and children,

Welcoming the initiatives taken by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice 10/ and the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Cairo from 29 April to 8 May 1995, 11/ towards criminalizing clandestine traffic in illegal migrants,

Concurring with the conclusion in the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women at Beijing on 15 September 1995, 12/ that the effective suppression of trafficking in women and girls for the sex trade is a matter of pressing international concern,

Recalling its resolution 49/166 of 23 December 1994, and taking note of Commission on the Status of Women resolution 39/6 of 29 March 1995, 13/

Acknowledging the work done by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in compiling information on the scale and complexity of the problem of trafficking, in providing shelters for trafficked women and children and in effecting their voluntary repatriation to their countries of origin,

Noting with concern the increasing number of women and girl children from developing countries and from some countries with economies in transition

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8/ Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex, chap. X.

9/ See A/CONF.166/9.

10/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 10 (E/1995/30), chap. I, sect. B.III.

11/ See A/CONF.169/16.

12/ A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

13/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 6 (E/1995/26), chap. I, sect. C.

who are being victimized by traffickers, and acknowledging that the problem of trafficking also victimizes young boys,

Convinced of the need to eliminate all forms of sexual violence and sexual trafficking, including for prostitution and other forms of commercial sex, which are violations of the human rights of women and girl children and are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person,

Realizing the urgent need for the adoption of effective measures nationally, regionally and internationally to protect women and girl children from this nefarious traffic,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the traffic in women and girls; 14/

2. Appeals to Governments to take appropriate measures to address the root factors, including external factors, that encourage trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriages and forced labour, so as to eliminate trafficking in women, including by strengthening existing legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing perpetrators, through both criminal and civil measures;

3. Invites Governments to combat trafficking in women and children through nationally and internationally coordinated measures, at the same time establishing or strengthening institutions for the protection of the victims of trafficking of women and children, and to ensure for victims the necessary assistance, including legal support services that are linguistically and culturally accessible, for their full protection, treatment and rehabilitation;

4. Also invites Governments to consider the development of standard minimum rules for the humanitarian treatment of trafficked persons, consistent with human rights standards;

5. Urges concerned Governments to support comprehensive, practical approaches by the international community to assist women and children victims of transnational trafficking to return home and be reintegrated into their home societies;

6. Encourages Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, 15/ international agreements on the suppression of slavery and other relevant international instruments;

14/ A/50/369.

15/ Resolution 317 (IV), annex.

7. Invites the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in addressing the obstacles to the realization of the human rights of women, in particular, through his contacts with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, to include the traffic in women and girls among his priority concerns;

8. Also encourages the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat to include the traffic in women and girls in its programme of work under its advisory, training and information services, with a view to providing assistance to member Governments, upon their request, in instituting preventive measures against trafficking through education and appropriate information campaigns;

9. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to encourage the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to continue to address the issue of the traffic in women and girls under its draft programme of action on the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others; 16/

10. Requests the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to consider appropriate follow-up to the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders on measures to address the problem of trafficking in women and children and to submit a report thereon to the Secretary-General, through the usual channels, for inclusion in his report to the General Assembly;

11. Invites relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide advisory services to Governments, upon their request, in planning and setting up rehabilitation programmes for victims of trafficking and in training personnel who will be directly involved in the implementation of these programmes;

12. Decides to focus the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, 2 December 1996, on the problem of trafficking in human persons, especially women and children, and to devote one meeting of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly to the discussion of this problem;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session, under the item entitled "Advancement of women", a comprehensive report on the implementation of the present resolution, with due regard for possible measures to improve the reporting procedure.

99th plenary meeting
22 December 1995

16/ See E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/28/Add.1.